

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK PIECE ON PURPORTED DETAINEES

REF: SANTIAGO 2827

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE TITLED, "THE EXORCISTS"
WHICH APPEARS IN APRIL 28 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK:

2. QUOTE: THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET
UGARTE HAS MADE FEAR AND TORTURE ALMOST A WAY OF LIFE IN
CHILE (NEWSWEEK, MARCH 31). LAST WEEK, NEWSWEEK'S JAMES
PRINGLE VISITED SANTIAGO TO INVESTIGATE FRESH REPORTS OF
CHILEAN TERROR. PRINGLE'S REPORT:

QUOTE: "THE EXORCIST" FINALLY OPENED IN SANTIAGO CINEMAS
THIS WEEK, AND EVERYONE IN CHILE'S DRAB CAPITAL SEEMS TO BE
TALKING ABOUT IT. NO ONE, HOWEVER, PUBLICLY DISCUSSES AN
EQUALLY GRISLY, HOMEGROWN FORM OF EXORCISM--THE PURGING OF
THE "DEMONS" OF LEFTIST THOUGHT. THE EXORCIST IN THIS CASE
IS A RUTHLESS STATE-SECURITY AGENCY KNOWN AS DINA, THE ACRO-
NYM FOR DIRECCION DE INTELIGENCIA NACIONAL. TO CALL DINA
A CHILEAN GESTAPO IS JUST TO FLATTER IT, BECAUSE SOME OF ITS
MEMBERS ACTUALLY LIKE TO BE COMPARED WITH THE NAZI SECRET
POLICE.

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QUOTE: RECENTLY DINA WENT SO FAR AS TO ARREST A 3-YEAR OLD

GIRL. LITTLE MACARENA AGUILO MARCHI WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY EARLY THIS MONTH. THE PURPOSE, APPARENTLY, WAS TO INDUCE THE SURRENDER OF HER FUGITIVE FATHER, HERNAN AGUILO MARTINEZ, A LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) WHO HAS BEEN HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE IN CHILE. (MACARENA'S MOTHER, A FORMER MIRISTA, HAS BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM IN VENEZUELA.)

QUOTE: SO FAR, THE FATHER HAS NOT GIVEN HIMSELF UP. "ANY MEMBER OF MIR CAUGHT BY THE AUTHORITIES KNOWS HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE," SAYS A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT IN SANTIAGO. "MIRISTAS ARE AUTOMATICALLY TORTURED TO REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF OTHER WANTED PERSONS AND POSSIBLE ARMS CACHES, AND OFTEN THEY ARE KILLED." TWO WEEKS AGO, MACARENA'S GRANDFATHER, DR. JORGE AGUILO GARCIA, FILED A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN A SANTIAGO COURT AND WROTE TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET ASKING THAT THE PLUMP, BROWN-HAIRED CHILD BE RETURNED TO "THE BOSOM OF THE FAMILY." BUT DINA ROUTINELY IGNORES WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS AND USUALLY DOESN'T TELL OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT WHAT IT IS DOING.

QUOTE: 'LA DISCOTECA': ONE MIRISTA WHO HAS ALREADY FALLEN AFOUL OF DINA IS GLADYS DIAZ, 38, A RADIO BROADCASTER WHO ONCE WON A PRIZE AS CHILE'S WOMAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR. DIAZ WAS PICKED UP BY DINA RECENTLY ALONG WITH A COMPANION, ENGINEER JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN, 31. SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE VILLA GRIMALDI, A FORMER NIGHTCLUB REQUISITIONED BY DINA AND WRYLY DESCRIBED BY FORMER INMATES AS "LA DISCOTECA." THERE, ACCORDING TO A LOCAL ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, SHE WAS TORTURED SO SEVERELY THAT, WHEN SHE FINALLY WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER, THE CAMP'S MILITARY DOCTOR REFUSED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER SURVIVAL.

QUOTE: TRES ALAMOS IS MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THE VILLA GRIMALDI, BUT NOT MUCH. FEMALE PRISONERS ARE KEPT THREE TO A CELL, SOMETIMES WITH THEIR BABIES. LAST MONTH, ONE BABY WAS DELIVERED BY CAESAREAN SECTION AT THE CAMP AFTER ITS MOTHER, A FORMER MIRISTA, WENT INTO LABOR WHILE BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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TORTURED.

QUOTE: THE JUNTA'S TERRORIST CAMPAIGN IS NOT AIMED SOLELY AT REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS LIKE MIR, WHICH EMPLOYED VIOLENCE ITSELF IN THE PAST. DINA AGENTS HAVE ARRESTED ORDINARY CHILEANS AFTER OVERHEARING THEM COMPLAIN ABOUT THE NATION'S RUNAWAY INFLATION--OR FOR NO APPARENT REASON. JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN, WHO WAS SEIZED WITH GLADYS DIAZ, IS THE SON OF

AN INTELLECTUAL JEWISH FAMILY IN SANTIAGO AND HAS NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH DIAZ, HE HAS BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO

FOR TWO MONTHS, AND SOME MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY FEAR THAT HE HAS BEEN TORTURED. PERELMAN'S RELATIVES IN NEW YORK CITY HAVE INVOKED THE AID OF SENATORS JAMES BUCKLEY AND JACOB JAVITS AND REPRESENTATIVES BELLA ABZUG AND EDWARD KOCH, AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE INQUIRIES. THE CHILEAN INTERIOR MINISTRY DENIES THAT THE YOUNG MAN IS BEING HELD, BUT LAST WEEK A JUNTA OFFICIAL APPEARED TO REBUT THAT CLAIM WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT THE PERELMAN PROBLEM "MIGHT BE RESOLVED SOON."

QUOTE: SO FAR, CHILE'S LEADERS DO NOT SEEM TO BE BOTHERED BY CRITICISM OF THEIR METHODS. THEY TALK CALMLY OF THE "DECAY" OF THE UNITED STATES, AS EVIDENCED BY ITS ABANDONMENT OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, AND REGARD CHILE AS A SOLITARY CRUSADER IN A WORLD MENACED BY MARXISM. MANY CHILEANS STILL SUPPORT THE GENERALS, PREFERRING PRESENT NATIONAL "ORDER" TO THE ECONOMIC CHAOS AND CORRUPTION THAT MARKED THE LATE SALVADOR ALLENDE'S PRESIDENTIAL RULE. "THE HORRORS HERE," SAYS A CHILEAN ATTORNEY, "ARE TOO GREAT FOR MOST PEOPLE TO COMPREHEND."

QUOTE: ONE OTHER ORWELLIAN TOUCH: LAST MARCH 14, A MAN NAMED CARLOS ALBERTO CARRASCO MATUS WAS ARRESTED AT HOME BY DINA AGENTS. CARRASCO MATUS WAS HIMSELF A DINA AGENT. HIS FATHER HAS OBTAINED A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, BUT THE SON HAS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE AND WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION INTO THE MAW OF THE ORGANIZATION HE USED TO SERVE. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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